

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0386

LIMDIS

CAPETOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, SF

SUBJECT: HIGHLEVEL LIBERIAN/SOUTH AFRICAN CONTACTS

REF: MONROVIA 0051

1. AMBASSADOR THOMAS CAME TO RESIDENCE EVENING OF JANUARY 20 PRIOR TO HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. THOMAS SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AT SOME LENGTH WITH PRES. TOLBERT. TOLBERT IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH VORSTER PROVIDED SAG GIVES CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE, SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AND POLICE FROM RHODESIA AND WILLINGNESS HONOR UN RESOLUTIONS AND ICJ DECISIONS ON NAMIBIA. THOMAS SAID PRES. TOLBERT DOES NOT WISH TO GO TO SOUTH AFRICA TO MEET WITH VORSTER BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE VORSTER IN LIBERIA. MEETING ON "NEUTRAL GROUND" IS STILL A POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER, TOLBERT DID NOT THINK TIME WAS PARTICULARLY PROPITIOUS NOW AND THAT HE SHOULD WAIT FURTHER EVOLUTION OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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2. THOMAS IS LEAVING WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS FOR NEW YORK

VIA GENEVA. HE SAID HE WILL IMMEDIATELY RESUME CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK TO PURSUE DIALOGUE.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TOLBERT, DESPITE HIS READY AVAILABILITY TO SERVE AS A MEDIATOR ON AFRICAN ISSUES, DOES NOT WISH TO GET TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. HENCE THE REPEATED STRICUTRES ON KEEPING FACT OF HIS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON OTHER HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS BY OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS WITH SAG LEADERS.
MANFULL

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